Proposal of free travel by Bonafide Students in DTC Buses

282. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to allow free travel by Delhi Transport Corporation buses in Delhi to all bonafide students on the basis of their identity cards; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Statement of H. S. Sandhu, General Secretary, AISSF on Punjab

283. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement of Mr. Harminder Singh Sandhu, General Secretary, All India Sikh Students Federation, reiterating an independent "Khalistan" as their goal and rejecting the Indian Constitution, declaring their intention to set up a parallel Government to the existing set up; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to tackle the threat to integrity of the nation posed by such secessionist groups ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Scrapping of Article 370 of the Constitution of India

284. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for scrapping Article 370 of Constitution of India to bring J&K at par with other States;

(b) if so, what are the details there of; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to ensure the cultural and economic development of J & K after scrapping of Article 370 ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED) : (a) No such proposal is presently under consideration.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Expenditure on Security of VVIPs

285. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure involved on security of Union Ministers, Prime Minister of India and Members of Parliament during the last three years;

(b) the staff involved in the security of Prime Minister of India i. e. number of staff and amount involved;

(c) the staff involved in the security of Union Ministers alongwith the amount involved; and

(d) the staff involved in security of Members of Parliament alongwith the amount involved ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) In so far as the

security of the Prime Minister is concerned, apart from the Special Protection Group, who are concerned with the approximate security of the Prime Minister and the Delhi Police who are responsible for his security during his stay in Delhi, provision of security arrangements for the Prime Minister during his visit to the States and UTs is the responsibility of the State Govt/UT administrations concerned. Similarly, in the case of security arrangements for the Members of Parliament and the Union Ministers, apart from Delhi Police who are responsible for security arrangements during their stay in Delhi, the security arrangements during their visits to the States and UTs are looked after by the respective state Govt. and UT Administration.

(b) The expenditure incurred by the Special Protection Group during the last three years is as follows:—

Year	Budgetary expenditure
1986-87 . . .	Rs. 3,70,82,300
1987-88 . . .	Rs. 4,68,21,570
1988-89 . . .	Rs. 7,47,11,680

Adequate number of personnel are deployed for the security of the Prime Minister.

(c) The staff expenditure incurred by the Delhi Police on the Security of the Union Ministers was Rs. 51,38,835 and staff deployed was 844.

(d) The expenditure incurred by the Delhi Police on the security of the Members of Parliament was Rs. 24, 34,185 and the staff deployed was 495.

The amount spent by Delhi Police for providing security cover mentioned above are the expenses on hiring cars for escort duties. The personnel for such duties and other expenses are incurred from the existing resources of Delhi Police or by deputation of personnel from other Central Police Organisations.

Shortage of DTC buses on long Distance Routes

286. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the shortage of DTC buses in Delhi on long distance routes;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to ameliorate the sufferings of DTC commuters;

(c) whether Government would increase the DTC fleet to serve the long distance route and increase the bus frequency; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) to (d) The deployment of the buses, the arrangement of schedules and trips between points in Delhi, covering both short and long distance, are done by DTC, after assessing traffic demand, and taking into account the availability of buses. During 1985-86, 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89, a total of 1384 new buses have been purchased by DTC but net addition to the fleet has been only of 772 buses, as the policy has been to give priority to replacement of over-aged fleet. Because of the inadequate availability of bus fleet it has not been possible to eliminate shortage of DTC buses operating in Delhi. With the available fleet, DTC has been providing more services. During April-Sept., 1989, the number of trips daily operated by D. T. C. has been 40202, compared to 36894 trips during corresponding half year period in 1988.

Public call offices in Rajasthan

287. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Public Call offices in different major towns of Rajasthan; and